



STATE OF ARIZONA

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GOVERNOR

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March 14, 2008

The Honorable Jim Weiers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2043; FY 2007-2008 state hiring; moratorium

Dear Speaker Weiers:

I am forwarding with my veto House Bill 2043, pertaining to a state-wide freeze on hiring and promotions. Through this bill, the legislative branch of government is directing Arizona's executive branch, its judicial branch and its public universities to cease all hiring and promotions, except in limited circumstances, and to report these human resource functions to the budget research division of the legislature on a monthly basis.

This legislation is wholly unnecessary. All the agencies under the control of the executive branch are already operating under a hiring freeze, pursuant to my February 21, 2008 directive. Arizona State's judicial branch of government and the state universities have also already adopted policies to voluntarily restrict hiring in light of the budget deficit. And as you probably know, this bill would not even take effect until ninety (90) days after the legislative session is over. So not only is the bill unnecessary, it takes effect too late to do any good.

This bill also constitutes an unwarranted intrusion into the distribution of powers and responsibilities among the three branches of government, as recognized by Article III of the Arizona Constitution. One branch of government cannot exercise the powers and authority properly belonging to another branch of government. This reason alone demands a veto of this bill.

In the end, this bill adds nothing to the comprehensive, bipartisan approach we are now taking to resolve our budget deficit. For the reasons stated above and other reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 2043. I will continue to monitor Arizona's fiscal health and extend my hiring freeze until it is no longer necessary.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano".

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:LK/jm

cc: The Honorable Timothy S. Bee
The Honorable Bob Robson